(c) if so, what steps have been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) A proposal was received by Government for opening of a branch of the State Bank of India at Jangla in Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh and the same was examined by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The centre Jangla is at present served by one branch of a nationalised bank which is considered adequate to cater to the banking needs of the area. Keeping in view the level of business of the existing branch at Jangla it was felt that the centre cannot sustain the viability of an additional bank branch at present.

2590. [*Transferred to the 4th September, 1990*]

Closing down of dealing centres of S.B.I. Calcutta

2591. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have taken any steps to close down the Dealing Centres and to abolish the post of Dealers outside Calcutta as the Dealing Centres and Dealers are not necessary to quote rates to the corporate clients;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present telecommunication network together with the Centralised Dealing or cover operations at Foreign Department Calcutta can smoothlly serve the State Bank's interest in the Foreign Exchange business; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) (a) to (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it has set up Dealing Rooms at Bombay Madras and New Delhi solely out of commercial necessity. No change has, however, been brought about in the centralised method of accounting in the Foreign Department of State Bank of India at Calcutta.

SBI has no proposal to close down the Dealing Rooms at Bombay, Madras and New Delhi.

Shifting of S.B.I. Foreign Department from Calcutta to Bombay

2592. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Miniter of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Bank of India has taken significant steps to reduce the importance of Foreign Department Calcutta, for i's ultimate shifting from Calcutta to Bombay in the near future resulting in the closing down of the Forex Inter Bank market in Calcutta;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State Bank of India has since shifted various important jobs, e.g. Inter Branch Reconciliation work, Rupee Travellers Cheques etc. from Calcutta to Bombay in the past which resulted in the curtailment of employment potential as well as the loss of economic importance of West Bengal;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry are considering of shifting back the aforesaid important jobs from Bombay to Calcutta;

(d) whether the management of the State Bank of India is introducing computers in Foreign Department, overseas Branch and other centres in Calcutta; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and the suggestions made by the local employees of the State Bank of India, Calcutta in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it had transferred certain jobs from Calcutta long back on business and management considerations in the light of the factors and developments obtaining at the material time. SBI has further reported that the bank has no proposal to transfer any other section/item of work from Calcutta. According to SBI the shifting transfer of certain sections/items of work from Calcutta has not resulted in any reduction in the bank's employment potential in West Bengal.

(d) and (e) The Bank has further reported that taking into account the volume and complexity of foreign exchange business and the fact that several other banks have already computerised their foreign exchange related operations it has embarked upon certain plans for computerisation of the foreign exchange and accounting work at its Foreign Department, Calcutta to enable it to retain its competitive edge in the business.

Amendment of securities and contract Regulation Act

2593. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Securities and Contract Regulation Act so as to extend it to the State of Sikkim and grant recognition to the Sikkim Stock Exchange Association Limited, Gangtok; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Discontinuation of the Minting of 5 paise coins

2594. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discontinue the minting of 5 paise coins because, with the rise in prices, it is hardly able to purchase anything; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Committee of Secretaries for phasing out 9 per cent tax free bonds for public sector

2595. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Economic Times of 16th August, 1990, to the effect that a Committee of Secretaries has decided in favour of phasing out the 9 per cent tax-free bonds for the public sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The Government's attention has been drawn to the news item. There is no proposal under consideration at present for phasing out 9 per cent tax free bonds for the public sector.

Proposal to mint five rupee, two rupee coins etc.

2596. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: